

## Obituary.

---

### FREDERIC JOY PIRANI, M.A., C.E.

FREDERIC JOY PIRANI was born at Birmingham on the 23rd of December, 1850. At the age of nine he was brought to Melbourne by his parents, who placed him in 1863 in the Church of England Grammar School. He was there a pupil of the Rev. Dr. Bromby, under whom he developed a taste for mathematics and natural science, and made so much progress with his studies that he very soon won the Foundation Scholarship for boys under fourteen years of age. He became captain of the school in 1866, and at the close of that year matriculated with credit, gaining the entrance exhibitions for classics and mathematics. Next year he passed his first examinations in arts and in engineering at the University with first-class honours, being awarded the exhibition for mathematics. In 1868 he passed the examination for second year of civil engineering with first-class honours, again winning the exhibition for mathematics. In 1869 he passed the final examination for civil engineering with second-class honours, and likewise his second year for arts with first-class honours. In 1870 he obtained to degree of B.A., and in the following year won the University Scholarship for mathematics and physics. In 1873 he took his degree of M.A.

In the same year, 1873, he was appointed Lecturer on Elementary Mathematics and Logic at the University, in which position he remained till the death of the late Professor Wilson, when a rearrangement of duties among the professorial staff made him Lecturer on Logic and Natural Philosophy.

Mr. Pirani was elected a member of the Royal Society in 1873, and signed the members' book on the 8th of December in that year. He was appointed Secretary to the Society in the following year, and was active and zealous in fulfilling the duties of that position.

On 12th October, 1874, he read a paper entitled, "On some Processes of Scientific Reasoning;" on the 12th April, 1877, another on "Force." In 1878 he read two papers, "Sir William Thomson's Electric Replenisher," and "Sir William Thomson's Form of Daniell's Constant Battery." In 1881 he read two papers, one explanatory of a new form of tangent galvanometer, invented by himself, another on a modification of Mance's method of measuring resistances.

Mr. Pirani was married in the year 1881, but had been only a few weeks married when a fall from his horse at St. Kilda caused the injuries which led to his death some eight or nine days later.

Mr. Pirani was one of the most active and able of the members of this Society; the work he did was of considerable value, and had all the appearance of being only the prelude to a most distinguished career, when the melancholy accident which caused his death took place.

---